

CLAIMS

1. (amended) A metadata production device, comprising:
 - a content reproduction portion that reproduces and outputs content;
 - 5 an voice input portion;
 - a voice recognition portion that recognizes voice signals that are input from the voice input portion;
 - a metadata generation portion that converts information recognized by the voice recognition portion into metadata;
 - 10 an identification information attaching portion that obtains identification information for identifying positions within the content from the content and attaches the identification information to the metadata; and
 - a dictionary that is limited in accordance with the content;
 - whereby the generated metadata is associated with positions in the content; and
 - 15 the recognition is performed in association with the dictionary, when recognizing the voice signals input from the voice input portion with the voice recognition portion.
- 20 2. (canceled)
3. (amended) The metadata production device according to claim 1,
 - wherein the voice signals are recognized by the voice recognition portion word by word in association with the dictionary.
- 25 4. The metadata production device according to claim 1 or 3,
 - further comprising an information processing portion including a keyboard, wherein the metadata can be corrected through the information processing portion by input from the keyboard.
- 30 5. (amended) The metadata production device according to any of claims 1 and 2 to 5,
 - wherein time code information that is attached to the content is used as the identification information.
- 35 6. (amended) The metadata production device according to any of claims 1 and 2 to 6,

wherein content addresses, numbers or frame numbers attached to the content are used as the identification information.

7. The metadata production device according to claim 1,
5 wherein the content is still-picture content, and the addresses of the still-picture content are used as the identification information.

8. The metadata production device according to claim 1,
10 wherein the content reproduction portion is configured by a content database;

wherein the voice input portion supplies to the voice recognition portion voice signals of entered keywords that have been converted into data with a clock signal that is synchronized with a synchronization signal supplied from the content database;

15 wherein the voice recognition portion is configured to recognize the keywords from the voice signal data that has been converted into data by the voice input portion; and

20 wherein the metadata generation portion is configured as a file processing portion that produces a metadata file by using, as the identification information, a time code that indicates a time position of an image signal that is included in the content, and combining the keywords that are output from the voice recognition portion with that time code.

9. The metadata production device according to claim 8,
25 further comprising a recording portion that records the content that is supplied from the content database together with the metadata file as a content file.

10. The metadata production device according to claim 9,
30 further comprising a content information file processing portion that generates a control file controlling the relation between the metadata file and recording positions to be recorded by the content file;
wherein the control file is recorded in the recording portion together with the content file and the metadata file.

35 11. The metadata production device according to claim 8,
further comprising a dictionary database, wherein the voice

recognition portion can select a dictionary of a genre corresponding to the content from a plurality of genre-dependent dictionaries.

12. The metadata production device according to claim 11,
5 wherein keywords related to the content can be supplied to the voice recognition portion; and

wherein the voice recognition portion is configured to recognize those keywords with higher priority.

10 13. (amended) A method for producing metadata, comprising:
voice-inputting information related to a given content while displaying the content on a monitor; subjecting the input voice signal to voice recognition with a voice recognition device using a dictionary that is limited in accordance with the content; converting voice-recognized information into
15 metadata; and attaching identification information provided to the content for identifying positions in the content to the metadata, thereby associating the generated metadata with the positions in the content.

14. (canceled)

20 15. (canceled)

16. The method for producing metadata according to claim 13,
wherein time code information that is attached to the content is used
25 as the identification information.

17. The metadata production device according to claim 13,
wherein the content is still-picture content, and the addresses of the
still-picture content are used as the identification information.

30 18. A metadata search device, comprising:
a content database that reproduces and outputs content;
an voice input portion that converts voice signals of entered keywords into data with a clock signal that is synchronized with a synchronization
35 signal of the reproduced content;
a voice recognition portion that recognizes the keywords from the voice signal data that has been converted into data by the voice input

portion;

5 a file processing portion that produces a metadata file by combining the keywords that are output from the voice recognition portion with time codes that indicate a time position of an image signal that is included in the content;

a content information file processing portion that generates a control file controlling a relation between the metadata file and recording positions of the content file;

10 a recording portion that records the content file, the metadata file and the control file; and

a search portion that extracts a recording position corresponding to a keyword in the content file by specifying the metadata files in which an entered search keyword is included, and referencing the control file;

15 wherein the recording position of the content file is the recording position in the recording portion.

19. The metadata search device according to claim 18,

20 wherein the control file that is output from the content information file processing portion is devised as a table that lists recording positions of content in the recording portion in accordance with a recording time of the content, and the recording position of the content can be searched from the time code.

20. The metadata search device according to claim 18,

25 further comprising a dictionary database, and a keyword supply portion that supplies keywords related to the content into the voice recognition portion;

30 wherein the voice recognition portion can select a dictionary of a genre corresponding to the content from a plurality of genre-dependent dictionaries, and the voice recognition portion is configured to recognize those keywords with higher priority.

21. The metadata search device according to claim 18,

further comprising a dictionary database;

35 wherein the voice recognition portion can select a dictionary of a genre corresponding to the content from a plurality of genre-dependent dictionaries; and

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wherein the search portion is configured to search by keywords that are chosen from a common dictionary used by the voice recognition portion.